

duty nursing. In essence, recipients have a choice between two covered benefits: nursing home care or an amount of private duty nursing that does not exceed the cost of nursing home care. To receive private duty nursing services, the recipient must have family members or other caregivers who are competent, trained, and willing to meet the recipient's needs during the hours when a private duty nurse is not present.

**Fifteen states control the number of private duty recipients and their cost by offering the benefit through Medicaid waivers.** Instead of covering private duty nursing under their state Medicaid plans, 15 states cover private duty nursing through 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services Medicaid waivers.<sup>10</sup> These states cover private duty nursing for at least one of the following targeted groups: disabled, mental retardation/developmental disabilities, aged, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), and technology dependent. For example,

- South Carolina offers private duty nursing services to adults under their HIV, head and spinal injuries, mental retardation/developmental disabilities, and ventilator dependent waivers, but adults only receive private duty nursing services under the ventilator dependent waiver. To be eligible for the ventilator dependent waiver, adults have to be dependent on a ventilator six or more hours a day. In Fiscal Year 2005-06, 38 adults received private duty nursing at a total cost of \$770,218 or an average cost of \$20,269 per recipient. No one under the waiver receives 24 hours per day of private duty nursing services.
- Virginia also covers private duty nursing under a technology-assisted waiver. The waiver serves up to 320 people. It covers up to 16 hours per day of private duty nursing services, and the recipient's family must undergo training and assume responsibility for 8 hours of care per day.

**Fifteen states do not cover private duty nursing for adults.** Medicaid-eligible adults in need of continuous, complex, and substantial nursing services in states that do not cover private duty nursing are cared for in the home by their family members, nurse aides, and/or nurses on an intermittent basis. Otherwise, they are cared for in institutions, such as nursing facilities or hospitals. For example,

- Georgia covers private duty nursing for children under its state Medicaid plan and through Medicaid waivers, but it only covers intermittent nursing for adults under various waiver programs.
- Florida covers private duty nursing for children under its state Medicaid plan and through its developmentally disabled waiver. Although adults can be on the developmentally disabled waiver, they are not eligible for nursing care under it.

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<sup>10</sup> Colorado and New Hampshire cover private duty nursing for adults under their state Medicaid plans and through Medicaid waivers.